

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

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We are a local Internet Service Provider serving southern Michigan and northern Indiana. We service over 5,000 customers and have 18 employees. Most of our base is dial-up, but we have an increasing base for broadband in both DSL and T-1 accounts. This broadband business will disappear if SBC-Ameritech is not forced by law and regulation to provide these services to us as provided for in the Telecommunications act of 1996 and following.

In our relatively rural area, SBC-Ameritech does not actively market DSL (although it is available in a small area if you know who to call) and only due to our contract with them can businesses afford to purchase the T-1 lines to access the Internet. SBC-Ameritech is very difficult to work with, they cancel orders for no reason, fix problems long after their committed times, and send bills with errors that take many hours each month to reconcile. Without independent ISPs like us, customers in our area would be in extremely bad positions with their competitors across the country and across the globe.

We have recently contracted with another CLEC, New Edge Networks of Vancouver, Washington, to resell their DSL lines in addition to SBC-Ameritech's. They have made an investment in equipment and provide service to a much larger area than SBC-Ameritech does. Please don't give SBC-Ameritech the chance to cut them out and reduce the service area for DSL in our region.

SBC-Ameritech has had ample time to deploy DSL and other broadband products. They have chosen not to. Please don't give them another chance in a monopoly situation!

Sincerely,

Fred Pieplow
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